

*London III Foundling Hospital*  
THE

ROYAL CHARTER,  
ESTABLISHING AN  
HOSPITAL  
FOR THE  
MAINTENANCE and EDUCATION  
OF  
EXPOSED and DESERTED  
YOUNG CHILDREN.

*GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of God, and so forth, to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.*

Preamble.

**W**hereas Our Trusty and Well-beloved Subject, *Thomas Coram*, Gentleman, in behalf of great Numbers of helpless Infants, daily exposed to Destruction, has by his Petition, humbly represented unto Us, that many Persons of Quality and Distinction, as well as others, of both Sexes, (being sensible of the frequent Murders committed on poor miserable Infants by their Parents, to hide their Shame, and the inhuman Custom of exposing new-born Children to perish in the Streets, or training them up in Idleness, Beggary, and Theft) have, by Instruments in Writing, declared their Intentions to contribute liberally towards the erecting an Hospital, after the Example of other Christian Countries, and for supporting the same, for the Reception, Maintenance, and proper Education of such helpless Infants, as soon as We should be graciously pleased to grant Our Letters Patent for that good Purpose: That several Legacies having  
been

Anno decimo tertio

GEORGII II. Regis,

1739.

---

*An Act for confirming and enlarging the Powers granted by His Majesty to the Governors and Guardians of the Hospital, for the Maintenance and Education of exposed and deserted young Children, by His most Gracious Charter, bearing Date the Seventeenth Day of October, in the Year of Our Lord One thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine, and to enable them to execute the good Purposes of the said Charter.*

**W**hereas His Majesty, in Compassion to the Numbers of poor Infants, who are liable to be exposed to perish in the Streets, or be murdered by their indigent and inhuman Parents, has been most graciously pleased, by His Royal Charter under the Great Seal of Great-Britain, to create and establish a Corporation or Body Politic, by the Name of *The Governors and Guardians of the Hospital for the Maintenance and Education of exposed and deserted young Children*; which Corporation is by the said Charter declared to have perpetual Succession, and empowered to take, hold, purchase, receive, and possess Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, to the Value of Four thousand Pounds a Year, and Goods, Chattels, and Personal Estate of what Nature and Value soever; and to purchase or erect an Hospital for the Support, Maintenance, and Education of exposed and deserted Children; and to hold Courts, to make By-laws, and to

Preamble.

A 2 elect

## THE ROYAL CHARTER.

been bequeathed for the same, to be paid by Executors, when any such Hospital shall be properly established here; the Petitioner therefore hath humbly prayed Us, that We would be graciously pleased to grant Our Royal Charter for incorporating such Persons, as We shall think fit for receiving and disposing of Charities for erecting and supporting an Hospital for the Reception, Maintenance, and proper Education of such exposed and cast-off Children as may be brought to it, under such Rules and Regulations, as to Us may seem meet.

**We**, taking the Premises into our Royal Consideration, and being desirous to promote so good and laudable an Establishment, are graciously pleased to gratify the Petitioner in his Request.

Name of the  
Corporation.

Power to

**Know ye therefore**, That We of Our especial Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, have willed, ordained, constituted, and appointed, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, **Do will**, ordain, constitute, declare and grant, That [*The Governors Names, and all Privy Conncillors for the Time being*] and such others, as shall from time to time be elected in the Manner herein after directed, they and their Successors be, and shall for ever hereafter be, by virtue of these Presents, one Body Politic and Corporate, in Deed and in Name by the Name of *The Governors and Guardians of the Hospital for the Maintenance and Education of exposed and deserted young Children*; and them and their Successors by the same Name, We do by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, constitute and declare to be one Body Politic and Corporate, in Deed and in Law; and by the same Name they and their Successors shall and may have perpetual Succession; and that they and their Successors,



elect Governors and Officers, and to do other Acts for the Purposes of the said Charter:— And whereas great Sums of Money have been given by the Governors of the said Hospital, and other Persons, to be applied to the charitable Uses before mentioned: And whereas by Reason of the Laws now in Force, for the Relief of the Poor, many Difficulties may arise in carrying into Execution the good Intents of the said Charter, and that the granting other and further Powers to the said Corporation is requisite, effectually to answer the Purposes aforesaid; may it please Your Majesty that it may be enacted.

**And be it therefore enacted,** by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the said Corporation, called *The Governors and Guardians of the Hospital for the Maintenance and Education of exposed and deserted young Children*; and their Successors, shall have Power, by any Instrument under their common Seal, to contract for, or to purchase any Lands Tenements, or Hereditaments, provided the same do not exceed the Value of Four Thousand Pounds a Year in Fee, beyond Reprizes, or take or purchase for any Term or Terms of Years, or as Tenants, from Year to Year, or at Will, any Lands

Name of the Corporation.

Power to enjoy 4000l. a Year.



## THE ROYAL CHARTER.

enjoy 4000l.  
a Year.

and Goods  
and Chattels.

Succeffors, by that Name, fhall and may for ever hereafter be Persons able and capable in the Law, and may have Power, notwithstanding the Statute of Mortmain, to purchafe, have, take, receive, and enjoy, to them and their Succeffors, Manors, Meffuages, Lands, Rents, Tenements, Annuities, and Hereditaments, of whatfoever Nature or Kind, in Fee and Perpetuity, or for Terms of Life or Years, not exceeding the yearly Value of Four thoufand Pounds beyond Reprizes, fo far as they are not reftained by Law; and all Manner of Goods, Chattels, and Things whatfoever, of what Nature or Value foever, for the better Support and Maintenance of fuch poor, deferted Children, as fhall be received into the faid Hofpital, in the Manner herein after mentioned.

Lands or Tenements whatsoever, to hold and enjoy the same, and to erect any House or Houses, Building or Buildings thereon, or to convert any House or Houses, Building or Buildings, which they shall so purchase or hire for that Purpose, to be an Hospital or Hospitals for the Reception of such poor and exposed Children, in such Manner as to the said Corporation shall seem meet.

**And be it further enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every House or Houses, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments which shall at any Time hereafter be purchased or hired by the said Corporation, to be used or converted into an Hospital or Hospitals, as aforesaid, or on which any such Hospital or Hospitals, House or Houses shall be erected, shall at all Times hereafter, whilst such House or Houses, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments shall continue in the Possession of the said Corporation, be rated and assessed to all Rates and Assessments, at such yearly Rents or Value, and in such Proportion, as such House or Houses, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments were rated and assessed in the Year one thousand seven hundred thirty and nine, and shall not at any Time hereafter, so long as they shall continue in the Possession of the said Corporation, as aforesaid, be rated or assessed at any higher Value, notwithstanding any Improvement which shall be hereafter made by the said Corporation, of or upon the same, by erecting any such House or Houses,

Taxes on  
Lands, &c.  
not to be  
raised above  
what was paid  
in 1739.

though im-  
proved for  
the Use of  
the Corpora-  
tion.

or





or other Building or Buildings thereon, or by converting any Building or Buildings into such Hospital or Hospitals, House or Houses; any Law, Statute, or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

And that the said Corporation may not be prevented from erecting or enjoying such Buildings as may be most convenient for the Purposes aforesaid, by the Incapacity or legal Disability of any Person or Persons to convey, though on Terms which would be for the Benefit and Advantage of such Person or Persons; be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for all Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations aggregate or sole, Femes Covert, who are or shall be seized in their own Right, Trustees and Feoffees in Trust, Guardians and Committees for Lunatics and Ideots, Executors, Administrators, and Guardians whatsoever, not only for or on Behalf of themselves; their Heirs and Successors, but also for and on Behalf of their *Cestuique* Trusts, whether Infants or Issue unborn, Lunatics, Ideots; Femes Covert, or other Person whatsoever, and to and for all and every Person and Persons, who are or shall be seized or possessed of, or interested in any Lands, Messuages, or Tenements, which the said Corporation shall judge to be proper to be by them purchased or hired, in order to the erecting such House or Houses, Building or Buildings, as aforesaid, or to the converting any House or Houses, Building or Buildings to their Use, as aforesaid, to contract for, sell, convey, or to farm let to the said Corporation, or their Successors, or such Persons as they shall appoint in Trust for them, all or any such Messuages, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments or any Part thereof: Provided, That every such Contract so to be made by or on

Femes Covert, &c. may sell Lands or Tenements to the Corporation.

B

Behalf



Behalf of any Person, under any Incapacity to convey, be, before it is carried into Execution, approved of by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Keeper, or the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of *Great-Britain* for the time being, on a Petition or Petitions to him or them exhibited on Behalf of such Person or Persons for that Purpose; and the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Keeper, or Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal for the time being, are hereby impowered, authorized, and required, in a summary Way, without any Bill filed, to examine into the Allegations of any such Petition, and to approve or disapprove of any such Contract, and to give such Direction for the Disposition of the Money arising therefrom, as to him or them shall seem just; and that all such Contracts, Agreements, Bargains, Sales, and Conveyances, which shall be so made, as aforesaid, shall be good and valid in Law, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever, not only to convey the Estate and Interest of the Person or Persons conveying, but also to convey all Right, Estate, Interest, Use, Property, Claim, and Demand whatsoever of their several and respective *Cestuique* Trusts, whether Infants, or Issue unborn, Lunatics, Ideots, Femmes Covert, or other Person whatsoever, and all Persons claiming, or to claim by, from, or under them; any Law, Statute, Usage, or any other Matter or Thing whatsoever, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Conveyances  
to be ap-  
proved of by  
the Lord  
Chancellor,  
&c.

**Provided always, and be it enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Sum and Sums of Money arising from or paid by the said Corporation to any Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations aggregate or sole, Femmes Covert, who are or shall be

Money paid  
for Lands or  
Tenements  
to Femmes Co-  
vert, &c. to  
feized



Power to sell  
or exchange  
Lands, &c.

To sue and  
be sued.

may have a  
common  
Seal,

And also to sell, grant, demise, exchange, and dispose of any of the same Manors, Messuages, Lands, and Tenements, whereof and wherein they shall have any Estate of Inheritance, or for Life, Lives, or Years, as aforesaid; and that by the Name aforesaid they shall and may be able to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all Courts and Pleas whatsoever of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, in all Actions, Plaints, Matters, and Demands whatsoever, and to act and do in all Matters and Things relating to the said Corporation, in as ample Manner and Form, as any other Our liege Subjects, being Persons able and capable in the Law, or any other Body Politic or Corporate in this Part of of Our Kingdom of *Great-Britain* called *England*, lawfully may or can act or do; and that the said Corporation for ever hereafter shall and may have and use a common Seal for the Causes and Businesses of them and their Successors; and that it shall and may be lawful for them and their Successors, to change, break, alter, and make new the said Seal from time to time, as they shall think fit,

seized in their own Right, Trustees or Feoffees in Trust, Guardians or Committees for Lunatics or Ideots, Executors, Administrators, or Guardians, as aforesaid, as the Consideration or Purchase-money for any Messuages, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments for erecting such House or Houses, Building or Buildings for an Hospital or Hospitals for the Reception of such poor and exposed Children, shall be laid out in the Purchase of other Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, to be settled to the same Uses, and stand charged with, and liable to the same Charge or Charges, as the Messuages, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments so sold and conveyed were settled, liable to, and chargeable with; any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

be laid out in other Lands, made liable to the same Uses.





**And be it further enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Corporation, or any Person or Persons authorized by them, to receive, maintain and educate all or as many Children as they shall think fit, into or in any Hospital or Hospitals, House or Houses, which shall by the said Corporation be erected, purchased, or hired for such Purposes; and that it shall be lawful for all and evry Person whatsoever to bring any Child or Children whatsoever to any such Hospital or House, as aforesaid, to the end that such Child or Children may be received, maintained, and educated by the said Corporation therein, in case they shall think proper to receive the same; and that no Church-warden, Overseer or other Person whatsoever, shall, by Virtue or Authority of any Law in being, for the Provision or the Maintenance of the Poor, or for Bastard Children, stop, molest, or disturb any Person in bringing any such Child or Children to any such Hospital or House, as aforesaid, or in returning from the same: and that every Church-warden, Overseer or other Person whatsoever, stopping, disturbing, or molesting any such Person or Persons contrary to the true Intent and Meaning hereof, shall forfeit the Sum of Forty Shillings for every such Offence; Half of which shall be paid to the Informer, and Half to the Use of the said Hospital; which Forfeiture shall be levied by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of any Two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County, Liberty, or Franchise where such Offence shall be committed.

Corporation to maintain and educate as many Children as they think fit.

No Church-warden, &c. to hinder any Persons bringing their Children to the Hospital.

on Penalty of 40s.

**And be it further enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That no Overseer or Overseers of the Poor, Church-warden or Church-wardens, or other Officer, appointed for the Care and Maintenance of

No Parish Officer shall have any Authority in the Hospital.

## THE ROYAL CHARTER.

of the Poor, shall have or exercise any Power or Authority in any such Hospital or Hospitals, House or Houses, which shall be appointed for the Reception of such poor Children, as aforesaid, nor shall have any Authority to enquire concerning the Birth or Settlement of any such Child or Children, who shall be therein maintained and educated, or to place them out Apprentices, or to do any other Act, Matter, or Thing whatsoever, within such Hospital or Hospitals, House or Houses, Place or Places, appointed by the said Corporation for the Reception, Maintenance, or Education of such Children, as aforesaid, save only to collect or levy such Taxes, as they are or shall be by any Act of Parliament impowered to levy and collect.

**And be it further enacted,** That no Child or Children, Nurse or Nurses, Servant or Servants, received, maintained, educated, or employed within any such Hospital or Hospitals, Place or Places, which shall be built, purchased, hired, or appointed by the said Corporation for the Reception, Maintenance, or Education of such poor Children, as aforesaid, shall gain any Settlement in the Parish or Parishes, Place or Places, where such Hospital or Hospitals, House or Houses, Place or Places are situate, by virtue of such their Reception, Continuance, Hiring, or Residence in such Hospital or Hospitals, House or Houses, Place or Places; any Law, Custom, Usage, Matter, or Thing whatsoever, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. Nor shall any Mortuary Fee, or Reward whatsoever, be due or payable to any Rector, Vicar, Curate, Minister, Clerk, Sexton, or other Officer of any Parish or Parishes, where such Hospital or Hospitals, House or Houses, Place or

No Settlement by being educated in the Hospital.

No Fees due to any Parish for Christenings or Burials.





Places shall be situate, for or on Account of the Christening, Death, or Burial of any Child or Children, who shall be so maintained and educated by the said Corporation, as aforesaid, who shall be christened, die, or be buried during their Continuance under the Care of the said Corporation: And the Offices of Baptism and Burial of all such Children, shall be performed by such Minister or Ministers of the Church of *England*, as the said Corporation shall agree with and employ for that Purpose; and no other Person or Persons whatsoever shall be obliged to perform the same: And the said Corporation shall provide sufficient Burial Ground for all Children dying under their Care; and shall not be intitled to make use of any Church-yard or Burial Place belonging to the Parishioners of any Parish, for the Burying of any such Child or Children.

Corporation  
to provide  
Minister and  
Burial  
Ground.

**And be it further enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Corporation, or any Person or Persons who shall be by them authorized and appointed, to detain and employ in any Sort of Labour or Manufacture, or in the Sea Service, all and every such Child or Children by them so maintained and educated, till such Children shall attain the respective Ages following; that is to say, Until every such Male Child shall attain his Age of Twenty-four Years, and every such Female Child shall attain her Age of Twenty-one Years, or shall be married; or to bind any such Child or Children Apprentice or Apprentices to any Person or Persons who shall be willing to take the same, or to place them out as Servants, or as Mariners, to any Husbandman, Master, or Captain of a Ship, or other Person

Persons edu-  
cated in the  
Hospital,  
how to be  
employed.

One President, six Vice-presidents, and one Treasurer.

Names of the first in those Offices;

to continue until the second *Wednesday* in *May*, 1740.

And, for the better Execution of the Purposes aforesaid, **We do declare and grant**, That the said Corporation, and their Successors for ever, shall have One President, Six Vice-presidents, and One Treasurer; and that *John Duke of Bedford* be the first President; that *Micajah Perry*, *Lord Vere Beauclerk*, *Sir Joseph Eyles*, *Martin Folkes*, *Peter Burrel*, and *James Cook* be the Six first Vice-presidents; and that *Lewis Way* be the first Treasurer of the said Corporation, each of them respectively to continue in their several and respective Offices of President, Vice-presidents, and Treasurer, until the second *Wednesday* in *May*, One thousand seven hundred and



whatsoever, till their said respective Ages, as  
aforesaid; and that every such Binding or Hiring  
shall be as effectual to all Purposes, as if such  
Child were of full Age, and by Indenture or  
otherwise had bound or hired themselves.

**And further,** That it shall be lawful to the  
said Corporation, or any Person or Persons by  
them authorized and impowered for that Purpose,  
at any time or times, so long as any Child or  
Children shall continue to be maintained by the  
said Corporation, to hire or let out such Child or  
Children to any Person or Persons who shall de-  
sire to contract with the said Corporation, for the  
Work and Labour of such Child or Children,  
and to receive and take to the Use of the said  
Corporation, the Profit arising for such their  
Work and Labour, and to give such reasonable  
Correction to any such Child or Children for their  
Idleness, Disobedience, or Misbehaviour, as they  
shall think proper; and that every such Child or  
Children shall be under the Direction and Con-  
troul of the said Corporation, so long as they  
shall continue to maintain such Child or Children.

Children may  
be let for Hire,  
to work  
abroad for  
the Use of the  
Hospital.

## THE ROYAL CHARTER.

and forty, and until others shall be chosen in their respective Rooms.

First Meeting  
within 40  
Days.

**And Our Will and Pleasure is,** That the said President, Vice-presidents, and Treasurer, and the rest of the Members of the said Corporation also above-named, or as many of them the said President, Vice-presidents, and Members as conveniently can, may, within Forty Days next after the Date of this Our Grant, meet together at such Time and Place as the said President shall appoint by Summons, or other Notice, which he is by these Presents impowered and required timely to issue for that Purpose, to the said Members, or such of them as live within the Cities of *London* or *Westminster*, or the Borough of *Southwark*, or within Two Miles thereof; where they, or the major Part of them then present, may chuse by Ballot One or more Secretaries, and such other inferior Officers and Servants as shall be thought convenient and useful for the Purposes of the said Corporation, and to serve in the said Offices respectively, until the second *Wednesday* in the Month of *May*, One thousand seven hundred and forty, and until others shall be elected in their respective Rooms, unless they shall sooner die, or be removed; and at such Meetings One or more Committee or Committees shall be chosen out of the Members of the said Corporation, to consist of such Number and Persons, as to the said General Court shall seem proper; which Committee or Committees shall continue until the said second *Wednesday* in the Month of *May*, in the said Year One thousand seven hundred and forty, and shall have Power to direct, manage, and transact all the Business, Affairs, Estate, and Effects of the said Corporation, and take in, receive, maintain, and employ

May chuse  
one or more  
Secretaries,  
and other Officers and  
Servants, to  
serve until the  
second *Wednesday* in *May*,  
1740.

One or more  
Committee  
or Committees to be  
chosen; to  
continue until the second  
*Wednesday* in  
*May*, 1740,  
have Power  
to direct, manage, and  
transact, and  
take in Children accord-

Anno decimo tertio Georgii II. Regis.

II



## THE ROYAL CHARTER.

ing to such  
Rules and  
Directions as  
shall be made  
by General  
Courts.

May erect or  
purchase a  
fitting Place  
to be an Hos-  
pital.

ploy such poor deserted Children, according to such Rules and Directions as shall be made and established from time to time by General Courts; to which said General Courts We do by these Presents; for Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, give and grant full Power and Authority to make and establish such Rules and Directions for the Reception, Maintenance, and Employment of such poor deserted Children, as they, or the major Part of them shall think meet, fit and convenient, from time to time; and for that Purpose such Committee or Committees may erect or purchase such fitting Place to be an Hospital for the Reception of such Children.

Every second  
*Wednesday* in  
*May* yearly,  
to be a General  
Meeting,  
to elect by  
Ballot all suc-  
ceeding Pre-  
sidents, Vice-  
presidents,  
Treasurer,  
and Commit-  
tees; to con-  
tinue until  
the second  
*Wednesday* in  
*May* follow-  
ing.

All succeed-  
ing Secreta-  
ries, Officers,  
and Servants,

And Our further Will is, That on every second *Wednesday* in the Month of *May* yearly, there shall and may be a General Meeting of the Governors and Guardians of the said Corporation in the said Hospital, or at some other convenient Place, until the said Hospital be made ready to receive them, for the electing by Ballot all succeeding Presidents, Vice-presidents, Treasurers, and Committees out of the Members of the said Corporation, by Majority of Votes of all the Members then personally present, to continue in their respective Offices until the second *Wednesday* in the said Month of *May* following, and until others shall be chosen in their respective Rooms; and that all succeeding Secretaries, and other inferior Officers and Servants, be annually appointed, or oftner, if needful, by the major Part of the Governors and Guardians for the

**And be it further enacted** by the Authority  
aforesaid, That the President, Vice-presidents,  
and Treasurer of the said Corporation, shall re-  
spectively continue as such, until there shall be  
others chosen into their respective Offices; and  
that for that Purpose there shall, on the second  
*Wednesday*, which shall be in the Month of *May*  
next, and so on every second *Wednesday* in the  
Month of *May* yearly, for ever, be a general  
Meeting of the Governors and Guardians of the  
said Hospital; and that the Governors and Guar-  
dians then present, shall proceed to the Election  
of a President, Six Vice-presidents, and a Treas-  
urer; which Election shall be by Ballot, and de-  
termined by the Majority of the Votes of the  
Governors and Guardians present at such Election.

President, &c.  
to be chosen  
annually.

every second  
*Wednesday* in  
*May*.

D

And

to be annually appointed, or oftner, if needful, at General Meetings.

the time being, then present at their General Meeting; and in case of an Equality of Votes, the President, or in case of his Death or Absence, the Vice-president first named in the List of Vice-presidents then present, to have a double or casting Voice, and at such Salaries as they shall think reasonable.



And in case it shall happen at any time or times hereafter, that the said Election cannot be made or compleated on the second *Wednesday* in the Month of *May* next, or in any other Year, that then, and as often as it shall so happen, such new Election shall be made within the Space of Forty Days, to be computed from such second *Wednesday* in *May*; and for that Purpose the Majority of the Governors and Guardians then present, shall have Power to adjourn such Meeting to any Day within such Forty Days; Notice of which Adjournment, as also of all other General Meetings, shall be given in the *Gazette*, and also (in case the said Governors and Guardians present at any Meeting, or the major Part of them shall so direct) in any other public News Paper, at least Three Days before such General Meeting whether annual, quarterly, or special. And the Persons elected at any such Meeting or Meetings, by Ballot, as aforesaid, by the Majority of the Votes of the Governors and Guardians present at such Meeting, shall be and are hereby impowered to act as President, Vice-presidents, and Treasurer of the said Corporation for the Year next ensuing such their Election, and till others shall be elected into the said Offices.

**Provided,** That when and so often as any Vacancy or Vacancies shall happen by Death of any of the Presidents, Vice-presidents, or Treasurers of the said Corporation, the Governors and Guardians of the said Corporation, or the

On Death of President, &c. others to be chosen.

Four stated  
General  
Meetings on  
the first *Wed-*  
*nesday* after  
*Lady-day,*  
*Midsummer,*  
*Michaelmas,*  
and *Christ-*  
*mas.*

May then ex-  
ecute Leases,  
and make  
By-laws.

**We will moreover,** That there shall be every Year four stated General Meetings of the Governors and Guardians of the said Corporation, to be held on the first *Wednesdays* after *Lady-day,* *Midsummer,* *Michaelmas* and *Christmas* Days respectively; at which Meetings, and no other, the said Corporation, or the major Part of the Members thereof then present, shall and may execute Leases for Years, and make By-laws for the Well-government of the said Corporation; which By-laws, not being repugnant to the Laws and Statutes of this Our Realm, shall and may be effectually observed and kept.

major Part of them, shall have Power, at the next General or Quarterly Court that shall be kept and held by them, after such Vacancy or Vacancies shall happen, to proceed to a new Election of a President, Vice-president, or Treasurer, in the Place of the Person or Persons deceased; all which Elections shall be by way of Ballot, in such Manner, as aforesaid:

And for the better ordering and managing the Affairs of the said Corporation, **be it further enacted**, That the Governors and Guardians of the said Corporation for the Time being, or the major Part of them, are hereby impowered, at any of the General or Quarterly Courts, which shall, from time to time, be kept and held by them, to chuse and appoint One or more Committee or Committees, as Occasion shall require, for transacting such Business, and auditing the Accounts of the said Corporation, and to require the Treasurer, Officers, and Servants of the said Corporation to accompt at such Times, and in such Manner, as they shall direct, and for such other Purposes as they shall think fit; and at the said General and Quarterly Courts shall have  
Power

at any of the  
General  
Courts may  
appoint  
Committees.



No By-laws binding, until confirm'd by a succeeding General Meeting; and and same Method to alter or repeal any By-laws.

**Provided nevertheless, and Our Will is,** That no such By-laws so to be made by this Corporation shall be binding, until the same shall be confirmed by some succeeding General Meeting; and that the same Method be observed in the altering or repealing any such By-laws, after they shall have been so confirm'd :

At Quarterly Meetings may remove and displace Officers or Servants, and put others into their Rooms. Any five or more of the Committee have Power to suspend, remove, and displace any inferior Officers or Servants, and put others in their Rooms, until the next General or Quarterly Meeting.

And the Members to be present at such Quarterly Meetings, or the major Part of them then present, are hereby impowered, from time to time, to remove and displace any Officers or Servants belonging to the said Hospital, for Misdemeanors, at their Will and Pleasure, and to put others into their Rooms from time to time : And We do hereby also impower the Committee for the time being, or any Five or more of them, on any just Cause, to suspend, remove, and displace any inferior Officers or Servants, and to put others in their Rooms, until the next General or Quarterly Court or Meeting.

Quarterly Court or Meeting.

Power to examine, allow, and pass such Accounts, and to make such By-laws as they shall think proper, for the better Government of the said Corporation: **Provided**, That no By-law so made shall have any Force or Effect till approved of by the next Quarterly General Court; **and provided also**, That the same be not inconsistent with the Laws and Statutes of this Realm.

And make By-laws.

**Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That none of the Governors and Guardians of the said Corporation, or any of their Successors, who shall hereafter be elected Governors and Guardians of the said Corporation, or any Officers of the said Corporation, shall be obliged to take the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or any Oath or Oaths whatsoever, to qualify them to execute the Office of President, Vice-president, Treasurer or any other Office, or to discharge any Trust relating to the said Corporation; any Law, Statute, Custom, or Usage to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Proviso.

**And be it further enacted**, by the Authority aforesaid, That such of the Governors of the said Corporation for the time being, who shall be present at any of the said General Courts or Meetings, or the major Part of them, or any Committee or Committees chosen by the said Corporation, and empowered by them so to do, shall have Power from time to time, and at all times, to elect, suspend, remove, or displace any Officer or Officers, Servant or Servants belonging to the said Corporation, at their Discretion, without any Cause assigned.

Governors may remove Officers and Servants at Pleasure.

And

Thirteen or more to be present at Quarterly or General Meetings.

At any Yearly Quarterly, or other General Meeting, which the President has Power to summon at any other Times, as there shall be Occasion, may, by Ballot elect Governors to be Members of the Corporation.

**Provided,** That no Act in any Quarterly or other General Meeting be valid, unless Thirteen or more Members be present, and the major Part of such as shall be present be consenting thereto.

**We will moreover,** That the said Corporation, and their Successors, or the major Part of such of them as shall be present at any Yearly or Quarterly Court, or other General Meeting, which the President has by these Presents Power to summon at any other Times, as there shall be Occasion, may, from time to time, by Ballot, elect and chose such fit and able Persons to be Governors and Guardians, as they shall think most likely to encourage and promote the charitable Designs of the said Corporation; which Governors and Guardians so elected, shall, from and after such Election, be adjudged and deemed Members of the said Corporation, and as such shall



**And be it further enacted,** That in Case any inferior Officer or Servant shall refuse to accompt, as aforesaid, or to produce any Papers, Books, Vouchers, or other Effects whatsoever, which he, she, or they shall be entrusted with, by or on account of the said Corporation, that it shall and may be lawful for any Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the County, Liberty, or Franchise where such Servant shall be found, on Complaint made on the Part of the said Corporation, to commit any such inferior Officer or Servant to the common Gaol of the said County, Liberty, or Franchise, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until he or she hath made a true Accompt, and satisfied and paid so much, as upon the said Accompt shall be remaining in his or her Hands, and has delivered up to the said Corporation such Papers, Books, Vouchers, or other Effects.

Servants  
obliged to  
accompt.

## THE ROYAL CHARTER.

shall be summoned and admitted to vote and act by Virtue of these Presents, as fully and effectually, to all Intents and Purposes as if their Names respectively were particularly inserted to be Members thereof in and by this Our Charter.

The Corporation, and their Successors, to appoint Persons to take Subscriptions, and collect Monies.

**And We will moreover,** That the said Corporation, and their Successors, shall have Power to authorize and appoint such Persons as they shall think fit to take Subscriptions, and to ask of all or any of Our good Subjects and gather and collect such Monies as shall, by any Person or Persons, Bodies Politic or Corporate, Companies, or other Societies, be contributed and given for the Purposes aforesaid; and may revoke and make void such Authorities and Appointments, as often as they may see Cause so to do.

Accounts in Writing to be kept of all Receipts, Payments, & Doings; to be inspected by any Benefactor upon Occasion. 20th December in every Year, or within 14 Days, the Accounts to be examined and audited by the

**And Our further Will and Pleasure is,** That the said Corporation shall and may cause fair and just Accounts in Writing to be kept of all Receipts, Payments, and Doings, by them, their Officers, and Agents respectively, in relation to the Premises, which shall be liable to the View and Inspection of any Subscriber or Subscribers, Benefactor or Benefactors, upon Occasion; which said Accounts shall, on the Twentieth ~~15th~~ of December in every Year, or within Fourteen Days after, be examined, audited, adjusted and subscribed by the Members present at such Meeting, or the major Part of them.

All Persons paying 20l. or more, or 40s. or more, annually, to have Liberty to inspect the Hospital.

Members present at such Meeting.

**We will moreover,** That all Persons who shall subscribe and pay to the said Corporation to the Amount of Twenty Pounds, or more, or of Forty Shillings, or more, annually, shall have free Liberty to inspect the said Hospital, and inform themselves of the State thereof, and

Anno decimo tertio Georgii II. Regis

17



## THE ROYAL CHARTER.

In all General Courts the President, or in case of Death or Absence, the Vice-president first named in the List of Vice-presidents then present to be the Chairman.

and of the Manner of nursing, dieting, managing, instructing, and employing the Children therein.

**And further We will,** That in all General Courts, the President, or, in case of his Death or Absence, the Vice-president first named in the List of Vice-presidents then present, be the Chairman of the said Court, and to have a casting Voice in case of an Equality of Votes.

**And lastly Our Will and Pleasure is,** That these Our Letters Patent, or the Inrolment or Exemplification thereof, shall be good, firm, valid, and effectual in the Law, according to Our Royal Intentions herein before declared; and shall be taken, construed, and adjudged, in all Our Courts, and elsewhere, in the most favourable and beneficial Sense, and for the best Advantage of the said Corporation, and their Successors; any Omission, Imperfection, Defect, Matter, Cause, or Thing whatsoever to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding, without Fine or Fee, great or small, to be for the same in any Manner rendered, done, or paid to Us in Our Hanaper, or elsewhere, to Our Use.

In Witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

Witness Ourselves at *Westminster*, the Seventeenth Day of *October*, in the Thirteenth Year of Our Reign.

*By Writ of Privy Seal,*

C O C K S,

And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be a public Act, and be so deemed and taken to be, and shall and may in all Cases be given in Evidence on the General Issue, and not be specially pleaded.

*F I N I S.*





# CONTENTS.

	Page
<b>P</b> REAMBLE	1
Name of the Corporation	2
Power to enjoy Land to the Amount of 4000l. a Year	ib.
Taxes on Lands, &c. not to be raised	3
Femes Covert, &c. may sell Lands to the Corporation	4
Corporation may sell or exchange Lands	6
May sue and be sued	ib.
May have a common Seal	ib.
Corporation to maintain and educate as many Children as they think fit	7
No Parish Officer to have any Authority in the Hospital	ib.
No Settlement by being educated in the Hospital	8
No Fees due to any Parish for Christenings or Burials	ib.
Persons educated in the Hospital how to be employed	9
Children may be let for Hire to work abroad for the Use of the Hospital	10
One President, Six Vice-presidents, and One Treasurer	ib.
Names of the first in those Offices	ib.
To continue until the second <i>Wednesday</i> in <i>May</i>	ib.
First Meeting within 40 Days	11
May chuse one or more Secretaries and other Officers, Servants, &c.	ib.
One or more Committee or Committees to be chosen, who have Power to direct, manage and transact, and take in Children according to such Rules and Directions as shall be made by General Courts	12
May erect or purchase a Place fitting to be an Hospital	ib.
President, &c. to be chosen annually every second <i>Wednesday</i> in <i>May</i>	ib.
On Death of President, &c. others to be chosen	13
Four stated General Meetings on the first <i>Wednesday</i> after <i>Lady-day</i> , <i>Midsummer</i> , <i>Michaelmas</i> , and <i>Christmas</i>	14
May then execute Leafes and make By-laws	ib.
At any of the General Courts may appoint Committees and make By-laws	ib.

# C O N T E N T S.

	Page
No By-laws binding until confirmed by a succeeding General Meeting, and same Method to alter or repeal any By-laws	15
Proviso	ib.
At Quarterly Meetings may remove and displace Officers or Servants, and put others into their Rooms	ib.
Any five or more of the Committee have Power to suspend, remove and displace any inferior Officers or Servants, and put others in their Rooms, until the next General or Quarterly Meeting	ib.
Servants obliged to accompt	16
Thirteen or more to be present at Quarterly or General Meetings	ib.
At any yearly, quarterly, or other General Meeting, which the President has Power to summon at any other Times, as there shall be Occasion, may, by Ballot elect Governors to be Members of the Corporation	ib.
The Corporation, and their Successors, to appoint Persons to take Subscriptions and collect Monies	17
Accounts in Writing to be kept of all Receipts, Payments and Doings; to be inspected by any Benefactor upon Occasion	ib.
On the 20th of <i>December</i> , in every Year; or within 14 Days after, the Accounts to be examined and audited by the Members present at such Meeting	ib.
All Persons paying 20l. or more, or 40s. or more annually, to have Liberty to inspect the Hospital	ib.
In all General Courts the President, or in Case of Death or Absence, the Vice president first named in the List of Vice-presidents then present to be the Chairman.	18



